Involvement of corporates for reforms in higher education

*43. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently in the meeting between the Prime Minister and the Union Minister, a broad consensus has emerged favouring involvement of corporates for resource mobilization for reforms in higher education;

(b) whether a campaign of Full Planning Commission on Education for reforms in institutions like UGC and AICTE took a decisive shape in the month of September and there was an overwhelming support for adoption of Chinese models on the expansion of higher education; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve higher education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) The National Policy on Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992) encourages nongovernmental and voluntary effort in education while preventing the establishment of institutions which intend to commercialise education. In the meeting of the Full Planning Commission on Education held on 13.9.2007, the need for systematically exploring the scope for private participation for supplementing public funding for higher education was emphasized. The Meeting also highlighted the need for a review of the role and functions of apex institutions like the University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical Education and Medical Council of India, in the context of the large number of changes that have taken place in the higher, professional and technical education in the last many years and the demands of a knowledge economy. Attention was also drawn to the need to consider innovative approaches including those reportedly taken in China.

A substantial increase in Plan allocation is envisaged in the XI Plan for the expansion of higher education, for setting up of institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment of World Class Universities, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology and Schools for Planning and Architecture. Expansion of capacity of the existing institutions, incentivising State Governments for increasing States outlays on higher education, strengthening of science based research in Universities, frequent updating of curricula, introduction of semester system, Faculty Improvement Programmes and other reforms are also proposed for being taken up during the XI Plan for improving the quality and relevance of higher education.

Loans to tribals in Jharkhand

*44. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seized of the fact that the Scheduled Tribes people in Jharkhand are denied loans by Commercial Banks and Financial Institutions beyond a term exceeding five years, even where such loans are secured by borrowers, by mortgaging their land properties;

(b) if so, the reasons for depriving Scheduled Tribes in Jharkhand of the benefit of long term loans against security;

(c) whether Government are contemplating steps to amend the situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs does not have any such information.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Forest Rights Act

*45. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even though the Forest Rights Act was passed in 2006, the rules have not been notified as yet; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PR. KYNDIAH): (a) The Rules under the scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 have not yet been notified.

(b) The comments received from the public on the draft Rules pre-published on 19th June, 2007, have been examined and the notification will take place as soon as all the formalities are completed.

Target for additional power generation

†*46. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a target of creating 10,159 Mega Watts power generation capacity in the country for 2007-08 was fixed;

(b) if not, what was that target;

(c) whether it is also a fact that project related to creation of 2,645 MW power generation capacity only were completed from April to September, 2007; and

(d) if not, the facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) According to the proposed capacity addition programme, during 2007-08 capacity addition of 16335 MW had been envisaged. However, on present assessment, the expected capacity addition is likely to be 12039 MW

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, the capacity commissioned during the year 2007-08 (up to September, 2007) was 2645 MW. Further more, as on 12th November, 2007 generation capacity of 4380 MW has been commissioned.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.